



## PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 01-02

### PROCEDURAL CHANGE FOR NOT INCLUDING PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS IN REGULATORY PUBLIC NOTICES

Date: October 29, 2001

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The San Francisco District of the Corps of Engineers has included a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) of proposed projects requiring a Corps permit in Regulatory public notices (PNs) for at least two and a half decades. Our primary reasons for doing so were to provide a more complete public notice for public comment, to highlight the primary issues of concern within the Corps' scope of authority, and to obtain *specific* comments of concern so that the Corps and the applicant could work towards resolution. However, to be consistent with national Corps policy, **the San Francisco District will no longer include a formal, preliminary environmental assessment in our Regulatory PNs, effective November 1, 2001.** National Corps policy for preparing PNs can be found in "Army Corps of Engineers Standard Operating Procedures For the Regulatory Program," dated October 15, 1999, beginning on page 9, *Preparing Public Notices* (the above document can be viewed at: [https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/g/notices/Reg\\_Stan\\_SOP.pdf](https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/g/notices/Reg_Stan_SOP.pdf)), and at 33 CFR 325.3.

Other than eliminating the "formal" preliminary EA, we will continue to include all other information that historically has been in our PNs, including the project description, applicable information on endangered species, critical habitat, historic properties, and any other important impacts that the public should know about. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, we will continue to prepare EAs to assess project impacts, but for those projects requiring public notices, we will prepare the EAs only after the close of the public notice comment period when sufficient information has been gathered to address the relevant public interest factors.